

Department of Environmental Quality Remediation Division

DEQ Technical Guidance Document #14 General Reference Information for Underground Utility Line Locates

The following information was collected from the internet and is meant to be a resource for state agencies, owners and operators of underground storage tanks, environmental consulting firms, and the general public seeking utility line locating services in Montana.

Montana state law (MCA 69-4-503) requires that excavators must notify a designated “One-Call” notification center prior to conducting excavation, drilling, or other subsurface work (Appendix A). After an excavator has notified the appropriate “One Call” center, owners of “underground facilities” must provide the locates and mark the location of utilities within 2 business days. Montana Underground Storage Tank rules (ARM 17.56.603 (1)(c)(ix) also requires underground utilities to be mapped at all LUST sites, as they may be receptors or conduits for petroleum contamination.

There are two primary options for public utility line location available in Montana: “ONE-CALL” provides location of public utilities in all Montana counties except Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, and Lake Counties. “UDIG ONE-CALL SYSTEM” covers only Lincoln, Flathead, Lake, and Sanders Counties.

Location of utilities across private property may not be covered by these two utility location services, and thus may require the use of a private company that provides this service.

Utility Color Codes

The following American Public Works Association (APWA) color codes are used for marking underground utility lines:

Electric - Red

Water - Blue

Gas - Oil – Steam - Yellow

Sewer - Green

Communication, CATV - Orange

Temporary Survey Markings - Pink

Proposed Excavation - White

Statewide Utility Location Coverages:

Option 1

“ONE-CALL”, 1-800-424-5555

(covers all Montana counties except Lincoln, Flathead, Sanders, and Lake Counties)

**Provided by Utilities Underground Location Center (UULC),
<http://www.callbeforeyoudig.com/>**

An Overview of the Utilities Underground Location Center

UULC Mission

To prevent all damage to underground utilities in our service area by providing the most efficient and cost-effective One Call Service.

UULC History

Utilities Underground Location Center (UULC) was started on July 31, 1978, by five Seattle area utilities: Pacific Northwest Bell (US West), Puget Sound Power & Light (Puget Sound Energy), Washington Natural Gas (Puget Sound Energy), Seattle City Light, and King County Department of Public Works.

Initial service area of the UULC was King County, Washington. As of 31 July 2000, the UULC provides call before you dig service to almost 800 facility owners in Washington & Montana.

UULC Milestones

During FY 1999, the UULC processed its 3 millionth locate request. In FY 2001, UULC processed an additional 324,440 requests in Washington & Montana.

UULC Call Center

The call center is operated by One-Call Concepts.

UULC: Utilities Underground Location Center (green):

1-800-424-5555

Coverage Area:

Adams, Benton, Clallam, Ferry, Franklin, Grant, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pend Orielle, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Stevens, Thurston and Whatcom counties in Washington, and all counties in Montana except Flathead Lincoln, Lake, and Sanders Counties.

Before calling, please read the answers to these frequently asked questions:

- 1. Why do I need to call before I dig?**
- 2. What information do I need to call?**
- 3. What happens when I call?**
- 4. How long does it take to mark the utilities?**
- 5. Is there a charge for having the utilities marked?**
- 6. Where can I get more information?**

1. Why do I need to call before I dig?

There could be buried facilities anywhere you plan to dig; under the road, sidewalk, or even in your yard. Calling 2 days (not counting weekend or holidays) before you dig ensures that any publicly owned underground lines will be marked, so that you can dig around them safely. Having the utility lines marked not only prevents accidental damage to the lines, but prevents property damage and personal injuries that could result in breaking a line.

Also, it's the law!

2. What information do I need to call?

The first thing you will need is the correct phone number. Using the correct phone number ensures that you will speak to an operator who is trained in taking calls in your area, and in your particular situation.

Find the toll-free number you should use here.

When you call, you will be asked a series of questions about your worksite. Being prepared greatly speeds up the process! Please have this information ready:

- * indicates required information. Even though not all the information is required, it is all helpful!
- * Your name, phone number, company name (if applicable), and mailing address.
The name and phone number of an alternate contact person, in case the utilities have questions and cannot reach you. If the work is taking place within 10 feet of any overhead power lines.
- * What type of work is being done.
- * Who the work is being done for.
- * The county and city the work is taking place in.
- * The address or the street where the work is taking place.
- * The nearest cross street.
- * The distance and direction of the worksite from the intersection.
(If no address is provided, cross street, distance, and direction are required)
- * Marking instructions, (specific instructions as to where the work is taking place).
Township, range, section, and quarter section of the worksite.

These questions are asked so that the operator can determine which utility companies should be notified of your excavation plans, and which should not. This process makes sure that all the utilities at your worksite are located, and the underground facility owners who do not have lines in your general area are not needlessly notified.

3. What happens when I call?

When you call, one of the friendly One-Call operators will ask you a series of questions about your worksite. (See question #2 for information needed to process a locate request.) You will then be provided with a list of underground facility owners in your area. You will also be given a time in which the underground lines will be marked, and a ticket number for your reference.

It is advisable that you write that information down!

Knowing which underground facility owners were notified can help if you encounter a problem later: You will know who to contact.

The utility companies have between the time they receive the locate request, and the time the operator gives you to mark their lines. Please wait until this time to dig, so that the utility companies have enough time to respond. The ticket number is the proof that you called. If you need to call the Utility Notification Center back for any reason, you will be asked for the ticket number. It is the only way the operators can reference

your information. Your ticket number might be needed when contacting people other than the Utility Notification Center. For example, the utility companies might ask for your ticket number if you need to contact them about your locate request or excavation plans, or you might be required to provide your ticket number when applying for permits.

The Utility Notification Center will transmit your locate request to each of the listed facility owners within 2 hours from the time you call.

In the next 2 days (not counting weekends or holidays) representatives from those facilities will mark their underground lines according to the AWWA color code.

Once the time given to you by the One-Call operator has passed, you are ready to dig!

4. How long does it take to mark the utilities

Under normal circumstances it takes approximately 2 days from the time you call (not counting weekends or holidays) to have the underground lines marked. Because these laws vary from state to state, exactly how long it will take depends on where your worksite is located. You will be given an exact start time and date when your locate request is completed, which will comply with the laws in your area.

If marks are needed before the time provided by the operator, they can be requested. However, the Utility Notification Center cannot guarantee that they will be marked any time before the original given time.

In the event of an emergency (any situation causing damage to life or property, or a service outage), lines can be marked sooner than the original given time if requested.

5. Is there a charge for having the utilities marked?

No, having the publicly owned underground utilities marked is free. However, the utilities will only mark the lines up to their own meters. Underground lines beyond the meter or service entrance belong to the property owner, and are that person's responsibility.

There are many locator services that can mark privately owned lines. The Utility Notification Center can refer you to a private locator in your area.

6. Where can I get more information?

If you have additional questions that are not answered on this site, you can call the Utility Notification Center (using the appropriate number, listed here). One of the operators, or a member of the management team should be able to help you.

If you prefer, written information is also available through the UULC. A copy of your state laws, or a Standards Manual, which contains the laws and additional information which you might find helpful can be mailed to you. Also available are promotional items, including wallet-sized color code cards, that can help remind you to call before you dig.

Contacting Utilities Underground Location Center

If you have any questions or comments for UULC, or if you would like to order a copy of the UULC Annual Report, please contact:

Executive Administrator
Don Evans
PO Box 4796
South Colby, WA 98384-0796
425-793-6300

evans_dr@msn.com

For locate requests call: 1-800-424-5555

<http://www.callbeforeyoudig.com/admin/contact.htm> -- Revised-evans: 14 December
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Option 2:

UDIG ONE-CALL SYSTEM: “Montana ONE-CALL Center”, 1-800-551-8344

(Lincoln, Flathead, Lake, Sanders Counties only)

<http://www.udig.org/notification.html>

1.What is UDIG?

UDIG is the recognized One Call Locate Center serving all of Flathead County, most of Lincoln County, and parts of Sanders and Lake County. The UDIG system is administered by the Flathead Valley Utility Coordinating Council (FVUCC).

2.What is the Flathead Valley Utility Coordinating Council?

The Flathead Valley Utility Coordinating Council is a non-profit corporation whose members are owners of buried facilities within the UDIG service territory. The FVUCC, Inc. contracts the Montana One Call Center to provide "One Call Locate Center" services.

3.Does UDIG locate everything that is buried?

No, UDIG doesn't locate anything. UDIG is a program that strives to serve as an efficient communications channel between excavators and the owners of buried facilities that could be damaged during an excavation. The owners of the underground facilities are the entities that are required by law to provide information about location of their buried systems. These owners may send their own employees to provide this information or they may contract a private company such as One Call Locators, Inc. to do that for them. In addition, UDIG members only mark their property. Privately owned power lines, gas lines, sewer service lines, septic tanks, water lines, satellite cable lines, private phone lines, underground sprinkler systems, etc. are not marked. The owner of those buried facilities is responsible for identifying their location.

4.What is the Montana One Call Center?

The Montana One Call Center is the answering service that picks up the phone when you call UDIG at 755-8344 or 1-800-551-8344. The Montana One Call Center is a private firm located in Kalispell, Montana, that contracts to provide Call Center Services. This is essentially an answering service that receives calls from excavators or anyone that has called UDIG to request that the location of underground utilities be identified to enable a safe excavation. The Montana One Call Center then notifies FVUCC members that have buried facilities in the

general area of the excavation. The Montana One Call Center does not have access to detailed information about the location of underground utilities and other buried facilities. In addition, the Montana One Call Center does not have detailed information about the status of the field activity related to response to a locate request. The Montana One Call Center is the single point contact that receives notifications about proposed digging and excavations and notifies any FVUCC members that have buried facilities. The Montana One Call Center is the single point contact that will notify FVUCC members if an excavator calls back to seek further information about a line location request.

5. Who is One Call Locators?

One Call Locators, Inc. is a private company that contracts to perform line locates for utilities and other owners of underground facilities. They are not UDIG. They are not the One Call Locate Center.

Who Is Notified?

Current members of the UDIG parent organization that have buried facilities in your excavation area will be notified of your excavation. It is their responsibility to mark these utilities and/or communicate this information to you. Practice in the UDIG territory has been for the locator to paint marks on the ground either to mark buried facilities or to note "No Gas", "No Power", etc. Marks will be made using the Standard APWA paint color for each respective utility.

Important things to consider:

- Utilities have two business days after receiving notification to mark their buried facilities.
- Multiple line locators will come to the digging site. Just because you have seen one mark on the ground doesn't necessarily mean that all utilities have been located.
- If you are unsure if all utilities representatives have been to the site, CALL UDIG.
- All UDIG calls are tape recorded. The locate requests are transmitted by FAX to members with a FAX capability. Other members are contacted by phone. Montana One Call operates 7 days per week, 24 hours per day. Emergency locates are transmitted to members by phone as soon as they are received.
- UDIG members are required to provide Montana One Call with maps of their service territory. These are not detailed facility maps, but rather geographic maps showing boundaries of their underground facilities, with road names, streets etc.
- UDIG and Montana One Call do not actually perform locates. This responsibility rests with the facility owner.

Appendix A
Location of Underground Utilities
Montana Codes Annotated

Montana Code Annotated - September 2000

69-4-501 . Definitions. The following definitions apply to this part:

(1) "Business day" means any day other than Saturday, Sunday, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

(2) "Emergency excavation" means an excavation in response to an emergency locate that is necessary to:

(a) alleviate a condition that constitutes a clear and present danger to life or property; or

(b) repair a customer outage involving a previously installed utility-owned facility.

(3) "Emergency locate" means a locate and mark that is requested for:

(a) a condition that constitutes a clear and present danger to life or property; or

(b) a customer outage for which repairs on a previously installed utility-owned facility are required.

(4) "Excavation" means an operation in which earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means or use of any tools, equipment, or explosives. The term includes but is not limited to grading, trenching, digging, ditching, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, and cable or pipe plowing and driving. Excavation does not include surface road grading maintenance or road or ditch maintenance that does not change the original road or ditch grade or flow line.

(5) "Excavator" means a person conducting the excavation activities defined in subsection (4).

(6) "Identified but unlocatable underground facility" means an underground facility that has been identified but cannot be located with reasonable accuracy.

(7) "Locatable underground facility" means an underground facility that can be field-located and field-marked with reasonable accuracy.

(8) "Locate" means to use specialized equipment to identify the location of underground facilities or the actual location of underground facilities identified by the use of specialized equipment.

(9) "Mark" means the use of stakes, paint, or other clearly identifiable material to show the field location or absence of underground facilities, in accordance with the current color code standard of the American public works association. Marking must include identification letters

indicating the specific type of underground facility and the width of the facility if it is greater than 6 inches.

(10) "One-call notification center" means a service through which a person may request a locating and marking of underground facilities.

(11) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, joint venture, corporation, association, municipality, governmental unit, department, or agency, and includes a trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative of the listed entities.

(12) "Reasonably accurate" means location within 18 inches of the outside lateral dimensions of both sides of an underground facility.

(13) "Underground facility" means a facility buried or placed below ground for use in connection with the storage or conveyance of water, sewage, electronic, telephonic or telegraphic communications, cablevision, fiber optics, electric energy, oil, gas, or other substances. The term includes but is not limited to pipes, sewers, conduits, cables, valves, lines, wires, manholes, and attachments to the listed items.

amd.
History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4801; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 286, L. 1991;
Sec. 1, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

69-4-502. Information to be sought before excavation -- notification -- exceptions. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), an excavator may not make or begin an excavation without first obtaining information concerning the possible location of an underground facility from each public utility, municipal corporation, underground facility owner, or other person having the right to bury underground facilities that is a member of a one-call notification center pursuant to subsection (2)(a).

(b) (i) A registered land surveyor or a person under the supervision of a registered land surveyor may hand dig for shallow survey monuments at a depth of 12 inches or less below the road surface of a highway or at the intersection of the center lines of public streets.

(ii) The registered land surveyor, prior to hand digging, shall obtain proper approval from the appropriate governing authority regarding safety and pavement repair and, when appropriate, shall reference the monument upon exposure.

(iii) The governing authority is not liable for any damages caused or suffered by the registered land surveyor or any person under the supervision of the registered land surveyor.

(iv) The registered land surveyor is liable for damages incurred regarding facility destruction.

(v) A public utility, municipal corporation, underground facility owner, or other person having the right to bury underground facilities is not liable for any damages suffered by the registered land surveyor or any person under the control of the registered land surveyor.

(2) (a) A public utility, municipal corporation, underground facility owner, or person having the right to bury underground facilities must be a member of a one-call notification center covering the service area in which the entity or person has underground facilities.

(b) Subsection (2)(a) does not apply to an owner or occupant of real property where underground facilities are buried if the facilities are used solely to furnish services or commodities to that property and no part of the facilities is located in a public street, alley, or right-of-way dedicated to the public use.

History: (1)En. Sec. 2, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4802, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4803, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4802, 32-4803(part); amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 393, L. 1993; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

69-4-503. Notification -- locating and marking. (1) Before beginning an excavation, the excavator shall notify, through a one-call notification center, all owners of underground facilities in the area of the proposed excavation.

(2) After an excavator has notified the appropriate one-call notification center of a proposed excavation, an owner of an underground facility shall:

(a) provide the locates and mark the location within 2 business days; or

(b) respond immediately if the excavator notifies the one-call notification center that an emergency exists.

(3) (a) After an owner of an underground facility has located and marked the underground facilities, the excavator shall determine if weather, time, or other factors may have affected location marks, warranting relocation of the facilities.

(b) If excavation has not occurred within 30 days of the locate and mark, the excavator shall request that the facility be relocated and remarked before excavating unless other arrangements have been made with the underground facility owner. The excavator is responsible for costs associated with relocating and remarking a facility that is not excavated within 30 days of the locate and mark.

(4) Upon receipt of the notice provided for in this section, the owner of the underground facility shall provide the excavator with reasonably accurate information as to the owner's locatable underground facilities by surface locating and marking the location of the facilities. If there are identified but unlocatable underground facilities, the owner of the facilities shall provide the excavator with the best available information as to their locations. An excavator may not excavate until all known facilities have been located and marked. An excavator is not responsible for damages to an underground facility that cannot be located by its owner. Once the facilities are located and marked by the facility owner, the excavator is responsible for maintaining the

markings.

(5) Upon receipt of notice from the excavator, the facility owner shall respond within 2 business days by locating and marking the facility or by notifying the excavator that locating and marking is unnecessary. An excavator may not begin excavating before the locating and marking is complete or before the excavator is notified that locating and marking is unnecessary.

(6) An excavator shall locate and mark the area to be excavated if requested by the facility owner or the owner's representative. If an excavator discovers an underground facility that has not been located and marked, the excavator shall stop excavating in the vicinity of the facility and notify the facility owner or the one-call notification center.

(7) An underground facility owner may attempt to identify the location of a private underground facility connected to the owner's facility, but the facility owner is not liable for the accuracy of the locate.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4803(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 43, L. 1983;
amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

69-4-504. Information to be part of architects' and engineers' plans. (1) Architects and engineers designing projects requiring excavation in or adjacent to any public street, alley, or right-of-way dedicated to public use or utility easement shall obtain information from the owners of underground facilities and then make the information a part of the plan by which the contractors operate. The owners of the underground facilities shall make available all records showing the locations of underground facilities and shall provide locates, if requested, pursuant to 69-4-503.

(2) This section does not excuse a person from the obligation imposed by 69-4-502(1).

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4808; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 43, L. 1983;
amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 286, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

69-4-505. Liability for damages to underground facilities. (1) If any underground facility is damaged by any person who has failed to obtain information as to its location as provided in 69-4-503, then such person shall be liable to the owner of the underground facility for the entire cost of the repair of such facility.

(2) If information requested pursuant to 69-4-503 is not provided within the time specified therein, any person damaging or injuring underground facilities shall not be liable for such damage or injury, unless caused by his negligence.

(3) The act of obtaining information as required by this part shall not excuse any person making any excavation from doing so in a careful and prudent manner, nor shall it excuse such person from liability for

any damage or injury resulting from his negligence.

L. 1971;
History: (1)En. Sec. 4, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4804, R.C.M. 1947; (2)En. Sec. 5, Ch. 180,
R.C.M. Sec. 32-4805, R.C.M. 1947; (3)En. Sec. 6, Ch. 180, L. 1971; Sec. 32-4806, R.C.M. 1947;
1947, 32-4804, 32-4805, 32-4806.

69-4-506. Repealed. Sec. 6, Ch. 179, L. 1997.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 180, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 32-4807.

69-4-507. Public authority -- liability. A public authority, as defined in 18-1-201, that has jurisdiction over a right-of-way is not liable for improper or unauthorized installations made by persons or entities other than the public authority or those acting at its discretion.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 286, L. 1991.

69-4-508. Emergency location and excavation. (1) When an emergency excavation is required, the excavator shall notify the one-call notification center. An underground facility owner shall respond as soon as is practical after notification.

(2) Requesting an emergency locate or an emergency excavation that is not an emergency locate or an emergency excavation as those terms are defined constitutes a false alarm pursuant to 45-7-204 and is subject to the penalties under 45-7-204.